



Fire Recovery Assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (September 2015)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has multiple agencies, some of whom provide financial and/or technical assistance to help farmers, ranchers and rural landowners recover from natural disasters, such as wildfires. Listed below are USDA agencies and an overview of applicable programs. Funding for some programs may depend on Congressional budget appropriations and may take a while.

FSA (Farm Service Agency): FSA programs are for farmers and ranchers.

- Livestock Incentives Program (LIP): Compensates producers for livestock death due to natural disasters. Compensation is based on roughly 75% of the national average price of the livestock by type and age. Report losses within 30 days.
- Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP): Compensates producers for a percentage of the pasture or forage loss on private lands due to natural disasters. Payments are subject to a national payment factor. Report losses within 30 days. Complete applications are due by Nov. 1.
- Livestock Forage Disaster Program: Compensates producers who suffer pasture or forage loss due to drought or who have federally managed grazing leases but are not allowed to graze the lease because of wildfire. Report losses within 30 days.
- Emergency Loans – low interest loans to replace farm and ranch buildings and structures, make repairs or replace livestock or feed. Must meet disaster/emergency criteria.
- Emergency haying and grazing of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres is available in Adams, Benton, Douglas, Franklin, Grant, Lincoln, Walla Walla, and Yakima. The agency will not deduct CRP annual rental payments from contract holders volunteering their land. FSA approval is needed before commencement. Haying must be completed by Aug. 31; grazing by Sept. 30.
- Emergency Conservation Program (ECP). The Farm Service Agency covers a portion of the cost to replace fence or other conservation practices. This program is contingent on funding available.
- Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP): Provides payments to nonindustrial private forest land owners for emergency measures to restore land damaged by a natural disaster. This program is contingent on funding available.
- Tree Assistance Program: Provides financial assistance to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes and vines damaged by natural disasters. Forests are not eligible.
- Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP): Provides compensation to producers who grow uninsurable crops and have purchased NAP coverage by the crop signup dates.

RMA (Risk Management Agency): Provides insurance to farmers and ranchers who have previously enrolled in the subsidized multi-peril crop and livestock insurance programs.

NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service):

- NRCS Oregon fire recovery funding pools have been developed utilizing the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) for farmers, ranchers, and private timber producers. Assistance is available to eligible landowners to address recovery needs, including reseeding, weed control, fencing and livestock water.
- In addition to fire recovery EQIP is also being used to address areas which have received drought designations. For forestry practices, NRCS will help landowners with wildfire prevention measures, such as creating fire and fuel breaks, multi-purpose water impoundments and other fuel reduction activities. These actions reduce excess vegetation in a forest so that wildfire has less fuel to spread higher into the canopy, where it causes the most damage.

RD (Rural Development):

- Single Family Housing - Direct low income Home Ownership Loans, Home Ownership Loan Guarantees, and Direct Home Repair loans. Those whose property was destroyed, was severely damaged, or who have been displaced from a rental unit by the fire may receive priority hardship application processing.
- Multi-Family Housing – If a property was destroyed by the fire, Rural Development can issue a priority letter for next available Multi-Family Housing unit to affected residents. This is available only if a disaster is declared.
- Community Facilities – low interest loans for essential community facilities, such as fire equipment, community centers, city vehicles, food banks, day care facilities, etc.
- Water Environmental Programs – low interest loans for water and waste disposal systems and facilities including buildings, equipment, wells and pipe.
- Business & Cooperative Programs - business loans through intermediaries and guaranteed business loans.

Local USDA Agency Contacts:**Farm Service Agency**

Phil Ward, Oregon Executive Director
Farm Service Agency
7620 SW Mohawk
Tualatin, Oregon 97062-8121
(503) 692-6830

Risk Management Agency - Regional Office

11707 E Sprague
Spokane Valley, WA 99206
509-228-6320
Toll free 1-800-205-9953

Rural Development

1201 Northeast Lloyd Boulevard, Suite 801
Portland, OR 97232
(503) 414-3300

- Single Family Housing: Rod Hansen, Single Family Housing Program Director, (503) 414-3353, rod.hansen@or.usda.gov

- Multi-Family Housing: Diana Chappell, Acting Multi-Family Housing Program Director, (503) 414-3351, diana.chappell@or.usda.gov
- Community Facilities AND Water and Environmental Programs: Sam Goldstein, Community Programs Director, (503) 414-3362, sam.goldstein@or.usda.gov
- Business & Cooperative Programs: Lisa Siesennop, Business & Cooperative Programs Director, (503) 414-3367, lisa.siesennop@or.usda.gov

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Ron Alvarado, Oregon State Conservationist
1201 NE Lloyd Blvd, Suite 900
Portland, OR 97232
503-414-3206

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.